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INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
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RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0540  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0560  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2254  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1001  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0276  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1047  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0188  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 0237  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 0159  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 0173  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0198  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 0511  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//  
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000138

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/ACE, EEB  
AID/W FOR EE/EA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: MICROSOFT/POLIMEKS DEVELOPING TURKMEN DICTIONARY

REF: 08 ASHGABAT 483

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (SBU) Post has learned that Microsoft, with support from Turkish construction firm Policom Istanbul (known locally as "Polimeks"), has apparently agreed to develop a Turkmen language dictionary and relevant software in cooperation with the Supreme Council on Science and Technology (SCST) and Turkmenistan's Agricultural University. The project reportedly will be funded jointly by Polimeks and Microsoft over a 20-month period beginning in May 2009.

13. (SBU) The local representative of an international donor agency told Post that President Berdimuhamedov approved the proposal for Microsoft, with support from Polimeks, to develop the dictionary and relevant software. He then sent instructions to the SCST to implement the project. The Academy of Sciences' Translation and Dictionary Department and the Agricultural University's International Relations Department will assist in the project. According to our source, a meeting to discuss the project took place on January 24 between SCST Deputy Chairwoman Akjeren Allanurova and the following participants:

-- Isolina Pommier, Microsoft Strategy Manager (Redmond, Washington);  
-- Jim Levi, Microsoft Public Sector Regional Leader, Central & Eastern Europe (Germany); and  
-- Bora Kutla, Assistant General Manager, Policom Istanbul (Ashgabat).

14. (SBU) COMMENT: Our source, who maintains close contact with a range of government interlocutors, mentioned that the government partners for this project have questioned its potential value and the priority it has received. Taken in the context of Polimeks' business strategy and recent award to develop a "technopark" in

Ashgabat, Polimeks' involvement appears to be an opportunistic business development effort presented to President Berdimuhamedov in an attempt to solidify its standing in the local market (reftel). At the same time, the project will provide Microsoft with solid foothold in Turkmenistan's small, but grossly underserved market. END COMMENT.

MILES